United Nations S/2009/128

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2009

Original: English

Letter dated 3 March 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my report on the situation in the Central African Republic dated 26 November (S/2008/733), in which I informed the Security Council of my intention to prepare proposals for an integrated United Nations presence in that country, and the letter from the President of the Council dated 23 December 2008 (S/2008/809), I would like to recommend that the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic be succeeded, initially until 31 December 2009, by a United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office, with a revised mandate and structure.

The inclusive political dialogue, held in Bangui from 8 to 20 December 2008, following similar initiatives in the past decade, represented perhaps the most genuinely inclusive attempt to foster national reconciliation in the Central African Republic to date. It resulted in a nationally owned road map for ending decades of armed conflict and political instability. Although the peace agreements concluded by all parties at the dialogue are still fragile, the successful conclusion of the dialogue provides a new opportunity for meaningful steps towards sustainable peacebuilding in a country with multiple vulnerabilities and significant structural challenges.

I have been encouraged by the active involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission in peace efforts in the Central African Republic since the country was placed on the agenda of the Commission in June 2008. I look forward to the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in the Central African Republic, which focuses on three priorities. These would be: (a) security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; (b) good governance and the rule of law; and (c) establishment of development hubs.

In order to provide adequate support, in a coherent and coordinated manner, for the promising peacebuilding opportunities arising from the dialogue and the involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, I would like to recommend that the mandate of the proposed integrated office include the following: (a) to assist national and local efforts in implementing the dialogue outcomes, in particular through support for governance reforms and electoral processes; (b) to assist in the successful completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the reform of security sector institutions, and support activities to promote the rule of law; (c) to support efforts to restore State authority in the provinces; (d) to support efforts to enhance national human rights capacity and promote respect for human rights and the rule of law, justice and accountability; (e) to closely

09-25651 (E) 060309

coordinate with and support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding and projects supported through the Peacebuilding Fund; and (f) to continue to support the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad. This revised mandate would allow the integrated office to provide enhanced support to stakeholders in the Central African Republic, as well as political support for multifaceted United Nations programmes.

The integrated office would be headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the Assistant Secretary-General level and have the following structure: (a) an office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General supported by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (D-2) and a Chief of Staff (D-1); (b) a strategic planning and coordination unit; (c) a political section; (d) a rule of law and security sector institutions section; (e) a human rights section; (f) a public information section; and (g) an administrative section. The strategic planning and coordination unit would include personnel from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the Development Operations Coordination Office to ensure that the integrated vision of the United Nations is translated into policy as programmes are developed and delivered.

Should the Council decide to extend the mandate of the integrated office in 2010, full financial requirements for the office would be presented to the General Assembly in the 2010 budget proposal, in accordance with the budgetary cycle of special political missions. In the meantime, temporary arrangements will be put in place to make the integrated office operational as soon as possible, within the existing 2009 budget allocation.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ban** Ki-moon